

UC Davis Postdoctoral Scholar Association Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, Feb 11, 2009; 12-1 pm, 148 Briggs Hall

Agenda

- 1) Approve Jan. minutes by consent- Joanna Friesner
- 2) (a) Obtaining external sponsorship- Mark Belmonte ****POSTPONED**,
(b) New tax registration system for non-citizens
- 3) Update on the first PD handbook draft- Joanna
- 4) Formation of Subcommittee on Mentoring Guidelines- Joanna
- 5) Outcome of meeting with ICC staff re: career fairs - Joanna
- 6) Announcements
- 7) Open floor

Present

Joanna Friesner (Chair)

Heather Watts (Secretary/Treasurer)

Jerry Hedrick (Faculty Advisor to PSA)

Eliza Bliss, Anka Schennink, Banafsheh Sadeghi, Amanda Palumbo, 3 other PD

Minutes from the January Meeting were approved.

New tax registration system for non-citizens

PD who are foreign citizens should have been notified about a new online system (called GLACIER) to register for tax and pay withholdings.

PD are reporting difficulty in getting registered.

Update on the first PD handbook draft

J. Friesner announced that a first draft of the handbook is now available online at

http://postdocs.ucdavis.edu/UCD_PostDocHandbook_v1.pdf

Please contact Joanna if you have suggestions for updates/improvements.

Formation of Subcommittee on Mentoring Guidelines

The current version of the PD handbook lacks information on mentoring postdocs. The PSA will form a subcommittee to develop such mentoring guidelines. J. Hedrick suggested that the guidelines should address expectations of both faculty and postdocs. It was decided that once a draft of such guidelines are developed, the PSA will submit them to Graduate Council for input and approval. This should help in disseminating the guidelines to faculty. E. Bliss and A. Schennink volunteered to serve on the subcommittee, and J. Hedrick volunteered to advise the subcommittee, which is expected to be led by J. Friesner.

Outcome of meeting with ICC staff re: career fairs

J. Friesner met with staff from ICC to discuss how career fairs can better serve PDs. Existing resource that may be useful to PD were highlighted including:

- (a) the ability to search career fair employers on the ICC website by whether they are looking to hire candidates with PhDs.

(b) Mock interview software ('Interview Stream') available through the ICC website allows you to practice interviews tailored to your type of desired career (e.g. academic, non-academic). Go to: icc.ucdavis.edu. In the eTools orange box at the left side of the screen, click on 'demonstration' to learn the easy registration process and how to use the software. If you don't have your own webcam to record your interview responses you can schedule an appointment at the ICC to use their equipment. After you have your responses recorded you can view them to see how well you did. You can also send your interview to your advisor or ICC staff to get their input.

- ICC will also try to better advertise existing career fairs to PDs.
- Finally in response to feedback, ICC has developed a workshop aimed at graduate students and PDs to help them prepare for career fairs ("Prepare for the Fair workshop"). For example, this workshop will explain how to use career fairs for networking. The first such workshop will be held Feb 13th (see announcements for details)

Announcements

- (a) Prepare for the Fair workshop will be held 2/13/09, from 1-2 pm, in 147 Olsen
- (b) Next postdoc travel award deadline is 2/16/09 (note: Feb. 17th is ok since Feb. 16th, is a holiday). Details available at <http://postdocs.ucdavis.edu/awards/awards.html>
- (c) Volunteers to review travel award applications were requested. B. Sadeghi and A. Palumbo volunteered to assist Joy Sirikanchana who is leading the review committee.
- (d) The National Postdoc Association (NPA) annual meeting will be held in Houston, March 27-29. J. Friesner and J. Hedrick will attend representing UC Davis.
- (e) NPA is writing an article about the pros and cons of unionization of postdocs. It is expected to be available in the NPA newsletter sometime in the future.

Open floor

There was discussion about the unionization process. It was noted that both union and university representatives have suggested that bargaining typically takes 3 to 9 months.

J. Hedrick noted that the initial UC bargaining proposal is based on the existing APM 390.